

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of controlling a plurality of acoustic devices, each device having at least one speaker unit, comprising:

storing first information specifying the number of speaker units corresponding to each acoustic device and the position of at least one of (1) the corresponding acoustic device and (2) one or more speaker units of the corresponding acoustic device;

obtaining second information corresponding to a position of a user and a number of channels to be used for reproducing a sound; and

determining one or more acoustic devices from among said plurality of acoustic devices used for reproducing the sound by using the first and second information.

2. A method of controlling according to claim 1, wherein the position of the user is specified by the user on a display screen.

3. A method of controlling according to claim 1, wherein the number of channels used for reproducing the sound is specified by the user on a display screen.

4. A method of controlling according to claim 1, wherein a data source used for reproducing the sound is specified by the user on a display screen.

5. A method of controlling according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

displaying on a display screen having a graphic display region, the position of the plurality of acoustic devices and the position of the user.

6. A method of controlling according to claim 5, wherein the determining step determines at least two different groups of acoustic devices from among said plurality of acoustic devices, each group having at least two acoustic devices from among said plurality of acoustic devices and having a total channel equal to

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the number of channels specified in the second information, and

said displaying step displays said at least two different groups.

7. A method of controlling according to claim 5, further comprising specifying the positions of said plurality of acoustic devices or said speaker units within said acoustic devices using said graphic display region.

8. A method of controlling according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting signals to each of said plurality of acoustic devices;

measuring delay times of responses obtained when transmitting said signals to the plurality of acoustic devices; and

maintaining synchronism among the plurality of acoustic devices used for reproducing the sound by using the measured delay times.

9. A method of controlling according to claim 1, wherein the determining step includes:

determines at least two different groups of acoustic devices from among said plurality of acoustic devices, each group having at least two acoustic devices from among said plurality of acoustic devices and having a total channel equal to the number of channels specified in the second information;

displaying said at least two different groups as displayed results; and

selecting one of said groups by utilizing said displayed results.

10. An information apparatus capable of controlling a plurality of acoustic devices each having at least one speaker unit, comprising:

a memory configured to store first information corresponding to a number of speaker units of the

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corresponding acoustic device and a position of one of (1) the acoustic device, and (2) the at least one speaker unit of the corresponding acoustic device; and

a control unit configured to obtain second information corresponding to a position of a user and a number of channels to be used for reproducing a sound, and to determine a combination of at least two acoustic devices used for reproducing the sound by using the first and second information.

11. A system for controlling a plurality of acoustic devices, each having at least one speaker unit and information equipment capable of controlling the acoustic equipments, wherein the information equipment includes:

a memory configured to store first information corresponding to a number of speaker units of the corresponding acoustic devices and a position of one of (1) the positions of acoustic devices and (2) the positions of the speaker units of the corresponding acoustic device; and

a control unit configured to obtain second information corresponding to a position of a user and a number of channels to be used for reproducing a sound, and to determine a combination of acoustic devices used for reproducing the sound by using the first and second information.

12. A server for controlling a plurality of acoustic devices, each acoustic device having at least one speaker for reproducing audio data comprising:

a display unit;

an input device;

a communication unit connected to each of said plurality of acoustic devices by means of wire or wireless connection;

a memory for storing first and second

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information;

a control unit connected to said input unit, said communication unit and said memory for controlling same;

said server operative by said control unit in cooperation with said display unit to receive first and second information from said input unit and to store same in said memory;

said first information including to the number of speaker units corresponding to each acoustic device and the position of one of (1) the acoustic device and (2) the position of the one or more speaker units in said corresponding acoustic device;

said second information including a position of a user of said server and the number of channels to be used in reproducing sound by said acoustic devices.

13. A method of controlling a plurality of acoustic devices connected to a network, each acoustic device having at least one speaker unit, comprising:

searching for the acoustic devices which are connected to the network;

determining, for each acoustic device found in said searching step, whether first information corresponding to a number of speaker units of the corresponding acoustic devices and the positions of one of (1) the speaker units and (2) the acoustic devices, is stored in a memory;

obtaining the first information, when it is determined that the first information is not stored in said memory;

obtaining second information corresponding to a position of a user and a number of channels used for reproducing a sound; and

determining a combination of acoustic devices to be used for reproducing the sound by using the first

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and second information.